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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: MIGRANT WORKERS

Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and efforts made by the Secretariat to promote the Convention

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and called upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. By its resolution 1998/15 of 9 April 1998, the Commission on Human Rights called upon all Member States to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and expressed the hope that it would enter into force at an early date; requested the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the active promotion of the Convention, through the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; invited organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue and intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session a report on the status of the Convention and on the efforts made by the Secretariat to promote the Convention and the protection of the rights of migrant workers.

3. In this connection, it may be recalled that a meeting of high-level governmental experts from the African region was convened by the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights in Addis Ababa from 14 to 17 May 1996, with assistance from the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity. The purpose of the meeting was to open a dialogue with States of that region not having adhered to international human rights treaties, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in order to identify obstacles to ratification and to seek ways of overcoming them. Governmental experts from 17 States attended the meeting. A second meeting of high-level governmental experts, for the Asian and Pacific region, was held in Amman from 1 to 4 September 1997 with the assistance of the Government of Jordan. Governmental experts from 18 States attended the meeting.

4. It is to be noted that a global campaign has been launched to promote the ratification and entry into force of the Convention. The Steering Committee for the global campaign includes leading international human rights, Church, trade union, women's and migrants organizations. The International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights are members of the Steering Committee.

5. As at 7 December 1998, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families had been ratified or acceded to by Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Colombia, Egypt, Morocco, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Uganda and signed by Chile and Mexico. In accordance with its article 87, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.